

September 2023

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## President's Message



Fall has always been my favorite season. I think it's because September feels like "new beginnings," with renewed energy and a fresh start. Summer break is over, and school is in session.

And, of course, September historically represented a new season of television shows. Before the age of on-demand streaming, it was "appointment television" to watch the season premiere of your favorite shows.

In the WIFV world, September means that our slate of exceptional programming has kicked off once again.

In this "new WIFV season," we will bring you conversations with filmmakers and other experts in media-making via our Wednesday Ones, Filmmaker Conversations, Roundtables, and our fabulous podcast Media & Monuments™.

Last season's podcast guests included WIFV's Women of Vision honorees Abby Greensfelder and Vonnya Pettigrew; NASA media makers Lori Perkins and Wade Sisler; and a fascinating chat with Star Trek Advisor Dr. Erin Macdonald. If you didn't get to hear those terrific interviews, head to our website and [check them out here!](#)

Speaking of podcasts, September's Wednesday One is all about Podcast Essentials. If you're thinking of launching a podcast, you don't want to miss this.

I hope to see some of you in-person or virtually at one of our happy hours or coffees. This month, we are getting together in Annapolis at Leo's for a happy hour. Our LGBTQ+ colleagues will also be

## Roundtable Roundup

**Doc:** Evening with Tiffany Shlain  
**Monday, Sept 11, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**SciFi Fantasy Creators**  
**Tuesday, Sept 12, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Film Club: COLOMBIANA**  
**Monday, Sept 18, 7:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Screenwriters: First Five Pages Readings**  
**Tuesday, Sept 19, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Editors**  
**Tuesday, Sept 26, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members.

There is a \$10 fee for non-members **You must pre-register to receive login links for online programs.**

## Send Your News & Photos

Deadline for Members in the News is the 10th of the month. Send an article (100 words or so) and a photograph or link to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org). **You can see past issues here.** Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 20th of the month.

**We welcome receiving photos of you at work - writing, filming, acting, and being a stellar PA.** Send your photos to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org). Please provide a project name and a photo credit.

meeting for an in-person happy hour at WIFV to support each other in their careers and projects.

I plan to attend the Executive Member Coffee and I definitely won't miss Film Club – which happens 3rd Mondays. Even if I wasn't a cohost, I would still attend. The conversations are engaging and informative. Hearing experienced filmmakers dissect a film is simply the best!

I'm enjoying everything about this new season and hope you are, too.

**Connie St. John**

## New and Renewing Members (Aug 4 - Aug 24, 2023)

Teresa Bono  
Dan Byrnes  
Tonya Fitzpatrick  
Jeffrey Hall  
Patricia Herrera  
Amy Johanson  
Emberlin Leja  
Caroline Marney  
Cola McGill  
Gini Mohanty

Barbara Neri  
Andrea Passafiume  
Kathryn Pasternak  
Adele Schmidt  
Abigail Sharon  
T. Scott Snider  
Brenda Spevak  
Steven Watkins  
Karen Zill

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## News You Can Use

### New Staff at WIFV!

WIFV is delighted to have **Sofia Sandoval** join the WIFV staff as the Programming Coordinator. Sofia will help plan and execute the nearly 200 professional development and networking programs WIFV provides annually. You will soon be seeing her on screens or in person and please share your programming ideas with her. She can be reached at [programming@wifv.org](mailto:programming@wifv.org).



### Media & Monuments - Season 4

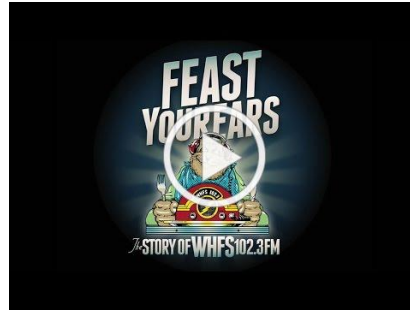
"Spotlight on the Writer's Guild of America Strike" goes live **Sunday, August 27.** [Hear it here.](#)

Season four kicks off with a conversation about the ongoing Writer's Guild of America (WGA) strike. Host **Candice Bloch** sits down with WGA member, tv writer, standup comic, and podcaster **Robby Slowik** on day 112 of the strike to learn more. They discuss the demands, the conditions that led to the strike, solidarity with other unions, and much more. [Learn more about the WGA strike here.](#)

"The Importance of the Strike with **SAG-AFTRA Actors**" goes live **Sunday, September 3.** The ongoing strikes have rocked the media community throughout the summer of 2023. Host Candice Bloch had a discussion on August 18th with three Mid-Atlantic SAG-AFTRA members and strike captains - Towanda Underdue, Gabriel Kornbluh, and Keith

Flippen (bios below) - to learn more about their experiences being on strike. They discuss the current SAG-AFTRA strike which began on July 14, 2023, its impact and importance, as well as the value of solidarity with other unions. For more information about the strike and how you can show support, head to [sagaftrastrike.org](http://sagaftrastrike.org).

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## FEAST YOUR EARS Sneak Preview - Sept 16

**FEAST YOUR EARS: The Story of WHFS 102.3 FM** is screening on Sept 16 at the Weinberg Center For The Arts in Frederick, MD. This is a **ONE NIGHT ONLY SNEAK PREVIEW** benefits the Weinberg Center and WIFV, both 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. [Get tickets here](#). Watch the trailer above!

Take a trip back to the '60s, '70s and '80s when “free form” progressive FM radio was in its heyday in America. Broadcasting from “high atop the Triangle Towers” near Washington, DC the legendary & beloved WHFS was more than just a local radio station – it was the voice of a generation. Hear from local, national and international musicians, the 'HFS deejays, record label veterans, journalists, historians, fans and more as they reflect on a time when the music united a tribe who spoke out via the radio waves about war, equality and a time of great social, cultural and political upheaval.

There will be a Q&A following the screening with Director/Executive Producer **Jay Schlossberg**, Editor/Producer Dick Bingham as well as some of the amazing 'HFS deejays who were our musical gurus!

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## Journey Films Releases SABBATH

Alexandria, VA-based Journey Films recently released its latest documentary, a two-hour film for public television called **SABBATH: An Ancient Tradition Meets the Modern World**. Told as a collection of short stories, **SABBATH** explores the history of one of the planet's most important spiritual practices and its timeless relevance for a stressed-out, modern world. Through a multi-faith lens, **SABBATH** takes viewers into the theologies, religious practices, cultural impacts, and contemporary resonances of ancient Sabbath traditions. Among these are the idea of a regularized day or period of rest for people, animals, and the land; the social justice and labor implications of giving everyone a 24-hour period free from work; the social, communal, and psychological aspects of shared times of rest, recreation, and restoration; and the ways that weekly rituals impact individuals and communities. **SABBATH** is available for streaming on many PBS stations and for free, on-demand download at [journeyfilms.com](http://journeyfilms.com). You can watch the three-minute film trailer below. WIFV member **Deryl Davis** is a producer and educational director on the film.



## DCEFF Retains District's Best Film Festival Nod

We would like to send a *huge* thank you everyone who voted in this year's **Best of DC** competition. For the fifth year in a row, DCEFF was named the District's Best Film Festival! This is a tremendous honor and one we plan on living up to during our 32nd Annual Festival.

# DCEFF

### **New Climate Films Playlist Streaming September 14-24**

Co-presented with Grist as part of Climate Week NYC, this eight-film collection will be available to watch anytime from Thursday, September 14, through Sunday, September 24

The new Playlist features short films from recent years of DCEFF that touch on different aspects of the climate emergency — from environmental justice and rising sea levels to policy challenges and affected wildlife. **RSVP to receive a reminder when it becomes available.**

Submissions for the 2024 Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital (DCEFF) are open September 1 through December 1. **Learn more here.**



### **The New Screenwriter on YouTube**

**BREAKING NEWS** - In anticipation of his new **screenwriting workshop series** starting in September, **Steve Douglas-Craig** has launched his own **YouTube Channel @TheNewScreenwriter** through which you will be able to find **FREE** video advice on the craft of screenwriting as well as tips for navigating an increasingly opaque entertainment industry. A new series of videos will launch each month on varying topics, so please go ahead and subscribe to get these as soon as they drop. **You can also find them linked to his website.**

## **AI-Created Art Isn't Copyrightable**

More than 100 days into the writers strike, fears have kept mounting over the possibility of studios deploying generative artificial intelligence to completely pen scripts. But intellectual property law has long said that copyrights are only granted to works created by humans, and that doesn't look like it's changing anytime soon.

A federal judge on Friday upheld a finding from the U.S. Copyright Office that a piece of art created by AI is not open to protection. The ruling was delivered in an order turning down Stephen Thaler's bid challenging the government's position refusing to register works made by AI. Copyright law has "never stretched so far" to "protect works generated by new forms of technology operating absent any guiding human hand," U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell found. **Read full article in *The Hollywood Reporter* here**

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Happy Hours and Coffees in September**

**Annapolis Happy Hour**

**Tuesday, September 5, 5:00-7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)**

Leo Restaurant, 212 West Street, Annapolis, MD

Happy Hour specials until 6:00 pm

**Executive Member Coffee**

**Tuesday, September 12, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)**



You will receive login info for the zoom in your registration confirmation

### LGBTQIA+ Happy Hour

**Wednesday, September 13, 6:00-7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)**  
WIFV Office, 1200 18th Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC

### Reel Moms Coffee

**Friday, September 15, 10:00 am [RSVP here](#)**  
The two-minute film challenge theme is SUBLIMINAL  
You will receive login info for the zoom in your registration confirmation

### Female Filmmakers Happy Hour in Richmond

**Monday, September 25, 5:30-7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)**  
Spang TV, 613 Wickham Street, Richmond, VA 23222



## Podcast Essentials - September 6

Podcasts are a versatile and thriving medium that range from entertaining to educational, and are quickly expanding beyond only audio. And while podcasts are enjoyable, they can also be useful tools to help bring attention to your project. Where to begin as a host of your own show or even as a guest can feel daunting, but our very own **Media & Monuments** podcast team is here to offer their experience and advice. You'll learn tips about equipment, workflows, hosting (in all senses of the word!), marketing, and more.

### Wednesday, September 6, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

FREE for WIFV Executive Members (must be logged in and use discount code)  
\$15 for WIFV Members (must be logged in) and Students / \$30 for public  
You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Event sponsored by [Interface Media Group](#), [202Creates](#), and [OCTFME](#).

## Two Finance Webinars in September

### Crowdfunding to Build Independence - Sept 7

Most people think of crowdfunding as 'friends and family' fundraising for a project. But we're going to show you how crowdfunding can not only get your project off the ground — it can help you build a sustainable film career through a direct connection with your audience.



Join Seed&Spark's **Emily Best** for this can't-miss Crowdfunding to Build Independence workshop to learn:

- Why audience building is essential for a film career (and crowdfunding)
- How to define, find, talk to and grow your audience
- How to prepare for a successful crowdfunding campaign (including goal, incentives, and communication plan)
- Why staged financing might be right for you

### Thursday, September 7, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

\$15 for WIFV Members (must be logged in) and Students / \$30 for public  
You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

### Film Funding: Putting the Pieces Together - Sept 13

This webinar features **Cathie Saadeh, Esq.** Independent films are typically funded through some combination of personal funds, grants, donations through a fiscal sponsor, equity investments, crowdfunding, in-kind contributions, and even product placement opportunities! This webinar will discuss how these pieces fit together, the options available to filmmakers, legal considerations when dealing with investors, and how the presence of multiple funding types can affect the film's distribution waterfall. The discussion will include a "filmmaker-friendly" discussion of the federal securities laws administered by the SEC,

and the various exemptions that may be used to conduct an investment offering.

**Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)**

\$15 for WIFV Members (must be logged in) and Students / \$30 for public

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

The WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellowship is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov). Additional support was received from [OCTFME/202 Creates](#) and the Gem Star Foundation.



## Short Screenplay Competition - DEADLINE September 15

We learned a lot from the "Let's Make A Short Film" initiative and are thrilled that four films have been completed and are being submitted to film festivals! Congrats to the teams behind FLIGHT OF THE CROWS, GLORIA'S BIRTHDAY, SENSES, and WAITING FOR GALDOT.

This year, WIFV will sponsor a Narrative Short Screenplay Competition! A jury of local filmmakers with short filmmaking experience will choose three screenplays that will receive table reads during ScriptDC with actors coordinated through The Actor's Center. The First Place cash prize of \$500 and the Second Place cash prize of \$250 will be determined by ScriptDC presenters and other Mid-Atlantic-based filmmaking experts. Prizes will be awarded during Script DC.

The script submission deadline is **September 15 at 5:00 pm**. Scripts can range from 1.5 to 10 pages (not counting the cover sheet); no more than three locations; and no more than 5 characters. Make sure your contact info is on the cover page and register your script with the Copyright Office. There is a \$25 submission fee. [Submit here](#).

## SAVE THE DATE - ScriptDC In-Person October 20-22

It will be two days of two-day master classes with teachers including Joan Darling, Maureen Ryan, Lily Kleinman, Grace Novak, Sara Barger, Sheila Smith, and others. You can immerse yourself in Directing Actors, Scheduling/Budgeting, DaVinci Resolve, Premiere Pro, Cinematography, and Producing. You will learn from industry leaders and workshop your own projects. But wait...there's more including featured screening and the first ScriptDC Narrative Short Screenplay Table Reads resulting in a prize! Registration Opens with Early Bird Pricing on September 6.

ScriptDC is supported by [Blackmagic Design](#), [Maryland Film Office](#), [OCTFME/202Creates](#), [Virginia Film Office](#).

## Resources

Women in Film & Video (WIFV) stands in solidarity with our colleagues and friends in the Writers Guild of America and SAG-AFTRA who seek equitable compensation, sustainable working conditions, protection from generative AI, and access to affordable health care.

WIFV has been collecting (and suggesting) relief resources for freelancers, artists, and small businesses across the region. [Access them here](#).

[Care for Creatives](#) provides pay-what-you-can mental health support to the DC creative and entrepreneurial community. Individuals who reach out to the CCSC are matched with a clinical intern to support them through a solution-oriented therapy approach. All services are confidential and will be provided via tele-health.

Email [CCSCFoggyBottom@gwu.edu](mailto:CCSCFoggyBottom@gwu.edu) and the Care for Creatives team will follow up with more information.

## Thanks to Our Sponsors



Send Stories to:  
[director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org)



### About WIFV

Women in Film & Video provides educational and networking opportunities for screen-based media makers, celebrates women's creative and technical achievements in media, and advocates for parity both in front of and behind the camera to ensure that all voices can be heard.



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